

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus for collecting user information, comprising:

speech recognizing means for recognizing speech of a user;

dialog sentence creating means for creating a dialog sentence to exchange a dialog with the user based on a result of the speech recognition performed by said speech recognizing means; and

collecting means for collecting the user information based on the speech recognition result, wherein said collecting means counts a number of times ~~the~~ a same topic is included in the speech of the user based on the speech recognition result and collects the user information based on the counted number.

Claim 13 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 12, further comprising storage means for storing the user information.

Claim 14 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein said dialog sentence creating means outputs the dialog sentence as one ~~in the form~~ of a text ~~or~~ and synthesized sounds.

Claim 15 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein said collecting means collects the user information based on an appearance frequency of a word contained in the speech recognition result.

Claim 16 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein said collecting means collects the user information based on a broader form of a word contained in the speech recognition result.

Claim 17 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein the user information is information indicating interests ~~or tastes~~ of the user.

Claim 18 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus for collecting user information, comprising:

speech recognizing means for recognizing speech of a user;

dialog sentence creating means for creating a dialog sentence to exchange a dialog with the user based on a result of the speech recognition performed by said speech recognizing means; and

collecting means for collecting the user information based on the speech recognition result, wherein said collecting means tracks when ~~the~~ a same topic is included in the speech of the user for a designated length of time based on the speech recognition result and collects the user information based on the designated length of time.

Claim 19 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 18, further comprising storage means for storing the user information.

Claim 20 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein said dialog sentence creating means outputs the dialog sentence as one ~~in the form~~ of a text ~~or~~ and synthesized sounds.

Claim 21 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein said collecting means collects the user information based on an appearance frequency of a word contained in the speech recognition result.

Claim 22 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein said collecting means collects the user information based on a broader form of a word contained in the speech recognition result.

Claim 23 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein the user information is information indicating interests ~~or tastes~~ of the user.

Claim 24 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus for collecting user information, comprising:

speech recognizing means for recognizing speech of a user;

~~a~~ speech threshold means for designating a threshold including a designated number of appearances of a topic in the speech of a user;

dialog sentence creating means for creating a dialog sentence to exchange a dialog with the user based on a result of the speech recognition performed by said speech recognizing means; and

collecting means for collecting the user information based on the speech recognition result, wherein said collecting means counts ~~the~~ a number of appearances that the ~~same~~ topic is included in the speech of the user based on the speech recognition result, determines whether the counted number of appearances of ~~said~~ the topic is equal to or greater than ~~said speech the~~ threshold number of appearances and collects the user information when the counted number of appearances of ~~said~~ the topic is equal to or greater than ~~said speech the~~ threshold number of appearances.

Claim 25 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 24, further comprising storage means for storing the user information.

Claim 26 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 24, wherein said dialog sentence creating means outputs the dialog sentence ~~in the form~~ as one of a text ~~or~~ and synthesized sounds.

Claim 27 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 24, wherein said collecting means collects the user information based on an appearance frequency of a word contained in the speech recognition result.

Claim 28 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 24, wherein said collecting means collects the user information based on a broader form of a word contained in the speech recognition result.

Claim 29 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 24, wherein the user information is information indicating interests ~~or tastes~~ of the user.